Africa, so has ancient Chinese porcelain been dug up in the Philippines. It is reasonably certain that for centuries before the coming of the Spaniards the Islands were in communication with China.

The various discoveries of the Philippine Islands furnish the dividing lines of its history. The three great formative periods were the pre-Spanish, the era of Spanish rule dating from their discovery of the archipelago and continuing to Dewey's victory in Manila Bay on May i, 1898, and the American period now prevailing but soon to cease. Overlapping both Spanish and American administrations in point of time is a fourth division, the Philippine Revolution, which is at present being carried forward into a new epoch. The first period was mainly Filipino, the second combined Spanish and Filipino, the third combined American and Filipino, and the last aspires to be strictly Filipino. It is noteworthy that the Philippines has thus been touched by various civilizations—by the aboriginal and Oriental, the Latin and European, and the Anglo-Saxon and distinctly American.

THE PHILIPPINES, A LAND OF EPICS AND ROMANCE

The task is not here essayed of telling the epic story of the Philippine Islands. Not but that the Philippines is a land of epics, for it is. No country possesses a more romantic history. But the reason why an attempt is not made to tell the fascinating narrative is that the answers to many questions are left to surmise and no author could hope to piece together

all the fragments of human knowledge to make a mosaic of Philippine history.

First, let me set down a few of the many intriguing and questioned points pertaining to the Filipinos and the Philippines. Whence came the pigmy Negritos, the aboriginal inhabitants of the Philippines, and the equally wild Mangyans? Whence came the mountain people of northern Luzon